

our efforts to protect and educate our youth, since they are the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE
WELLNESS ACT OF 2001

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join today with my colleague Sander Levin to again introduce the Medicare Wellness Act. This legislation makes common sense reforms to the Medicare program to help ensure that our seniors are living longer, healthier lives.

The focus of the Medicare program since its inception in 1965 has been on sickness—once people are ill, the Medicare program steps in to treat that illness. But medical technology and treatment options have come a long way since 1965. Sadly, the Medicare program has not kept pace with those advances.

The new focus of Medicare should be on wellness. We can, and should, prevent seniors from getting sick, and promote good health. This focus not only has health benefits, but is also fiscally responsible. Hospitalization is one of the most expensive benefits provided under the Medicare program, and often, hospitalization is the only option. However, if the Medicare program can be reformed to help prevent instances of hospitalization we will not only have healthier seniors, but we will utilize Medicare's resources in the most effective way.

The Medicare Wellness Act of 2001 not only increases screening and preventive services, based on the recommendations of the National Preventive Services Task Force, but includes mechanisms that will help promote healthy lifestyles, disease prevention, and encourage a change in personal health habits.

Congress began adding these needed benefits in 1997's Balanced Budget Act by adding four initial preventive benefits. We have since added to those benefits, and improved many of them. As we discuss adding other new benefits, such as a prescription drug plan, to Medicare, we cannot do so without facing the fundamental need for reform of the program. Incorporating these common sense benefits is a necessary component of any true reform package.

I would urge my colleagues to support this measure, and look forward to its inclusion in any Medicare reform legislation considered by the Congress this year.

HONORING MURRAY EILBERG

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who will be greatly missed by all who knew him. A man who served his country proudly in its hour of need, and a man whose love for his work and his life are only eclipsed by his immeasurable love of family. It brings me great sadness to report that Murray

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Eilberg of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, passed away last night at the age of 77.

Murray Eilberg was raised in Brooklyn, New York. He grew up right around the corner from a wonderful girl named Jane, who would become the love of his life. Murray and Jane were married for over 57 years. Their family grew as they had three loving children, Patricia, Herman, and Joey. Devoted to his family above all else, Murray was blessed to have six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Like so many of the Greatest Generation, Murray Eilberg fought for his country when our nation called him to serve in World War II. Murray was proud to serve in the US Army Corps of Engineers as a brave member of the Experimental Demolitions Unit.

Growing up, Murray dreamed of becoming a motorman. And so after the War, Murray spent twenty-two years working for the New York City transit system as one of the city's finest motormen. Only a progressively worsening eye condition could stop Murray from doing what he loved, as no one had any doubt he would have worked another twenty-two years if given the chance.

In 1969, Murray retired and, with Jane, became beloved members of the South Florida community. Despite his blindness, he remained active as a member of the Blinded Veteran's Association, the Disabled American Veterans, and the American Legion. Known for his unwavering sense of humor, Murray was an avid joke teller who would captivate an audience; even during his final days in the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, Murray Eilberg was both well-loved and widely respected by all those blessed to have known him. He selflessly served his country. His life's work was his dream. And his family was a source of admiration and great pride. Today we celebrate Murray's life which serves as a wonderful example to all who follow in his footsteps.

HONORING THE U.S. MILITARY
ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, NEW
YORK CLASS OF 2001

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, permit me to take this opportunity to congratulate the nine-hundred cadets of the graduating class of 2001 from our United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

I was gratified to once again be able to join this year's graduating class, along with our Deputy Secretary of Defense, Paul Wolfowitz, and our good friend, the distinguished superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, General Daniel Christman.

Regrettably, this year's ceremony will be the last West Point graduation for General Christman, who will soon be leaving the Academy for a private life. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my personal gratitude and the thanks of this entire body for his distinguished service to our Nation, and for his commitment to our Nation's military. His guid-

ance, leadership, and spirit at West Point will long be missed.

I was pleased to listen to the poignant remarks of Deputy Defense Secretary Wolfowitz and look forward to working with him. I am attaching a copy of his remarks for the RECORD and strongly recommend to my colleagues to review his message to the class of 2001 and to our Nation.

To all the Cadets of the class of 2001, I extend my congratulations, my best wishes, my prayers, and my continued commitment to ensuring that our Nation provides them with the support they deserve for their service to our Nation.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AT THE U.S.
MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST POINT

[Remarks by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, Michie Stadium, West Point, NY, Saturday, June 2, 2001]

Thank you. Thank you, General [Daniel] Christman [Superintendent of the United States Military Academy], for a very warm introduction. Please be seated. You neglected to mention that 25 years ago, when we were very young, we were working together to persuade the Congress not to take fine Army forces out of Europe. And with the help of a lot of other people, we succeeded. Those forces stood watch in the Fulda Gap and other places around the continent of Europe, and the result was one of the great strategic victories of history of which every member of the Armed Forces and every member of the U.S. Army that participated in that effort is justly proud.

I also want to complement General Christman and the Army on the great spirit with which they said, we're going to go ahead and hold this ceremony outdoors even in this terrible weather, because it's more important to have all the families able to come than to be inside warm and comfortable. [Applause.] Coming from Washington where, as they say, no good deed goes unpunished, it's wonderful to see this good deed rewarded with a break in the weather.

Senator Jack Reed, Congresswoman Sue Kelly, Congressman and old friend Ben Gilman, Congressman Saxby Chambliss, and Congressman Charlie Norwood; Commandant [of Cadets Brigadier General Eric] Olson, Dean [of the Academic Board Brigadier General Daniel] Kaufman, distinguished staff and faculty, ladies and gentlemen, parents and family, and most of all, members of the class of 2001:

I want to thank the Class of '01 for giving me the honor of sharing with you this very special day. I went to school just up the road a ways in a place called Cornell where I studied mathematics. According to my calculations, if you take the corps of cadets and add a speech longer than 20 minutes, by the time you're done, you'll have 40% that won't be listening, 40% who will be sleeping, and 20% will be asking for their money back.

So, the responsibility of a commencement speaker is heavy indeed. Your remarks should be sentimental to please the parents, substantive to please the faculty, and short to please the cadets [Laughter.] When we say the word "short" to the class of '01, I'm told that we're talking to experts. In fact, I can see that this class is so short [audience: "how short are we?"]. you have fewer hours until you receive your diplomas than the plebes have ears to graduate. But, plebes . . . your day will come, too.

Today also marks the last time that the distinguished Army leader General Dan Christman will stand before a graduating